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MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1947.

C. T. DARWENT,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:—

The Chairman (Mr. G. W. Feary), The Vice-Chairman (Mr. W. G. Davis) and the full Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:—

Medical Officer of Health—

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Market Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Rural District Council.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—J. T. DEWHURST, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector — B. V. BRAYBROOK, C.R.S.I., A.M.S.E.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Marshland

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended the 31st December 1947. The report is drawn up on the lines suggested in the various circulars issued by the Ministry of Health.

The vital statistics may be regarded as satisfactory.

The births show an increased rate as compared with 1946, whilst the death rate also shows an increase compared with the same year. The inward transferable deaths, as assigned by the Registrar General numbered 69.

Apart from a marked increase in measles during the whole year and affecting the whole area, the incident of the zymotic diseases continues at a low level. Scarlet Fever in particular showing a marked decrease over the previous year.

The estimated number of children under 15 years of age who have been immunized against Diphtheria, compares favourably with other districts in the County.

In the sphere of applied sanitation, many problems will call for solution in the near future. The chief being concerned with refuse and sewage collection and disposal, both of which present many difficulties in a terrain such as the rural district presents.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance afforded me by the executive officers of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. T. DARWENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1947.

AREA (acres) - - - - - -	56,562
POPULATION, 1931 (Census) - - -	15,350
„ 1947 (Estimated) - - -	16,330
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1947 - - -	4,819
Rateable value of Rural District 1947 - - - -	£37,935
Product of 1d. Rate, 1947 - - - - - - - -	£156 10s. 0d.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate 1946	Rate 1947	E. & W.	County
Legitimate	354	179	175				
Illegitimate	22	15	7				
Totals	376	194	182	21.3	23.02	20.5	20.8

STILLBIRTHS.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate 1946	Rate 1947	E. & W.	
Legitimate	7	6	1				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Totals	7	6	1	0.31	0.42	0.50	

DEATHS (all causes)

Total	Male	Female	Rate 1946	Rate 1947	E. & W.	County
204	99	105	10.6	12.4	12.0	12.7

DEATHS (from Puerperal Causes).

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis - - - - -	NIL
Other puerperal causes - - - - - - -	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY — rate per 1,000 live Births.

	Total	1947	E. & W.	County
Legitimate	22	59.0		
Illegitimate	1	45.0		
Totals	23	58.5	41	36.39

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - - - -	33
Deaths from Measles (all ages) - - - - - -	NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - - - -	NIL
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) - - - -	3

Section A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA. (acres) 56,562

POPULATION. The estimated mid-year population 16,330.

DEATHS. The total number of Deaths assigned to the District by the Registrar General, after adjustment for inward and outward transfers was 204 as compared with 162 for 1946. The recorded death rate was 12.4 as compared with 10.6 for 1946.

BIRTH RATE. The number of live births assigned to the District was 376 as compared with 344 for 1946. The number of registered births was equivalent to 23.2 per 1,000 of the population.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of stillbirths registered was 7 compared with 5 for 1946.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. NIL.

INFANT MORTALITY. Twenty-two (21 legitimate and 1 illegitimate) infants under 1 year of age died during 1947 as compared with 9 in 1946.

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births:

Marshland Rural District	58.5
England and Wales	41.0
Administrative County	36.39

NEONATAL MORTALITY. Infants who died within 28 days of independent existence are classified as Neonatal deaths and as such are included in the Infant Mortality rate.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERIVCES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory work associated with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases and the bacteriological examination of water supplies is carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Norwich.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

In accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria (outside London) Order 1910, a supply of Antitoxin was available free of charge to Medical Practitioners for use in the district, by applying direct to the Health Department, Rural District Council Offices, Wisbech.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Marshland Rural District is a constituent Authority of the Wisbech Borough, Wisbech and Marshland Rural District Councils' Joint Ambulance Committee, which has two Ambulances, one for infectious diseases and one for ordinary cases.

HOSPITALS.

North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

Accommodation for Infectious Disease cases—Wisbech Isolation Hospital, Wisbech.

DAY NURSERY.

This is situated at Emneth and is administered by the County Education Authority.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are two centres available for residents in the district—one at Outwell where two sessions are held monthly, on the first and third Mondays in each month at 2 p.m., and one at Terrington St. Clement with a session at 2 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is served with piped water supply to the villages by two Schemes. The Northern area including the villages of Clenchwarton, Terrington St. Clement, Tilney All Saints, Walpole St. Andrew and part Walpole St. Peter is served by the Council's mains from a supply afforded by the King's Lynn Borough Council. The villages of Upwell, Outwell, Emneth, Walsoken, West Walton, Marshland St. James, Tilney St. Lawrence and part of Walpole St. Peter are served by mains controlled by the Wisbech Water Works Co. Where no piped supply is available in the more isolated parts of Parishes, the only supply is rainwater collected from roofs. The number of shallow wells in the district is negligible.

On 1st October, the Ministry of Health held an Inquiry at the Council Offices, into an application by the Council to borrow the sum of £24,700 for the extension of water mains in the Parishes of Clenchwarton, Terrington St. Clement, Walpole St. Andrew, Walpole St. Peter and part of the district known as Central Wingland. The decision of the Minister was awaited at the end of the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No public sewers exist. Where an adequate water supply is available many conversions of vaults and pail closets to water closets have occurred with disposal by cesspools and septic tanks. Privy vaults are generally in use by the cottage properties and agricultural dwellings. Cesspools and Privy vaults are emptied by Private Contract. There is no service available to residents for Night Soil Emptying.

RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS.

The whole district is covered and controlled by the two Catchment Boards of the Nene and Ouse.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION—BEDDING, ETC.

No facilities are available for the disinfection and disinfestation of clothing and bedding, etc. In exceptionally bad cases, complete destruction would be recommended.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No cases have been reported or found during the year.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

No applications were received and no licences issued by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919.

The Council do not employ the services of a Rat Catcher. Cases of infestation, when found or reported, are referred to the County of Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee who arrange for the necessary disinfestation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Dry refuse is collected by the Council fortnightly and all houses except those in isolated places, where disposal can be carried out privately, are served. The number of collections made during the year is estimated to be 80,600.

Roads and streets are controlled by the Norfolk County Council and road cleansing is therefore carried out by the County Council staff.

SEASONAL WORKERS.

There are three Agricultural Holidays Camps in the district controlled by the County Agricultural Executive Committee and periodical inspections have been made of these camps during the open season.

There are also privately owned fruit pickers' bunks in the district and these have been periodically inspected and controlled by Byelaws made by the Council. Movable dwellings are also controlled on privately owned land under the Public Health Act 1936 and are moved within the prescribed period.

Section D.

HOUSING.

During 1947 7 Tarran Type Prefabricated Bungalows were completed and occupied at Walpole St. Andrew. 32 Swedish Timber Houses were completed and occupied and distributed as follows:—

Lakesend (Upwell)	8
Clenchwarton	6
Marshland St. James	6
Walpole St. Peter	6
Emneth	6

Development of estates for permanent houses were commenced in the following parishes:—

Upwell, Walsoken, Walpole St. Peter, Terrington St. Clement, Clenchwarton.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

3 Licences were granted under the Civil Building Regulations for the erection of dwellings by Private Enterprise and 6 consents were received from the Ministry of Health for dwellings to be erected in conjunction with agricultural holdings under the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1946. 15 dwellings were completed and occupied.

REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES.

The Council still held 13 properties at the close of the year which were requisitioned during the National Emergency. No other dwellings were requisitioned during the year.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Owing to restrictions in building operations few major improvements were carried out. In 31 cases privy vaults and pail closets were converted to W.C.'s with cesspools or Septic tanks. 267 cases of essential repairs were recommended for licences and the work carried out.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER 1926.

All dairies and cowsheds were periodically inspected during the year and in five cases requests were made for improvements, all of which were satisfactorily completed.

MILK SAMPLING.

All sampling is carried out by the County Health Department.

FOOD PREMISES.

Ten Bakehouses registered in the district were inspected at 6 monthly intervals.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

All meat is slaughtered at Central Abbatoirs at King's Lynn and Wisbech.

16 investigations were made into cases of alleged unsound food and in all cases it was surrendered voluntarily and condemned, as follows:

Tinned Fish	2 tins	
Tinned Meat	1 tin	
Tinned Milk	49 tins	
Tinned Vegetables	17 tins	
Tinned Fruit Preserves	21 tins	
Cheese	12 lbs.	
Flour (National)	8½ tons	damaged by fire
Flour (Self Raising)	1 cwt.	damaged by fire
Flour (Self Raising)	90 lbs.	
Sugar	7 lbs.	
Bacon	4 lbs.	
Currants	6 lbs.	
Margarine and Butter	4½ lbs.	
Oatmeal	2 lbs.	

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX.

No cases were notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twenty-two cases were notified during the year as compared with 54 in 1946. Seventeen cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital at Wisbech. No deaths were assigned to this disease. In all cases dwellings were disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA.

It is gratifying to report that no cases were reported during 1947.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In order that the good record of the District for freedom from Diphtheria is maintained, it is most essential that there is no flagging off in the effort by the medical profession and the willing co-operation of all parents to secure that all children of the district be immunized against the disease.

Immunization is carried out chiefly by the Medical practitioners of the District, either at the home, the surgery or at the schools.

The following table shows the estimated number of children immunized during 1947.

1947	Under 5	5—14	Total	Number of children who received a secondary or reinforcing injection
	140	23	163	29

The following table shows the estimated numbers of children immunized since the inception of the scheme and up to December 31st, 1947.

Up to 31st December, 1947	Under 5	5—9	10—14	Total
	575	954	1059	2588

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

No cases were notified during the year.

PRIMARY PNEUMONIA.

Ten cases were notified as against eighteen in 1946. There were six deaths, four of which were children under 1 year.

MEASLES.

The measles epidemic, which has been widespread throughout the country as a whole, caused 188 cases to be notified as against 56 cases in 1946. The case distribution was fairly evenly spread over the whole district. There were no deaths assigned this disease.

ERYSIPELAS.

Only one case was notified during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Fifty-three cases were notified as against fifty-nine cases in 1946. There were no deaths from this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table indicates the incidence of Tuberculosis in the District.

1947	Tuberculosis all forms			Rate per 1000 population M.R.D	County rate per 1000 of population
	Male	Female	Total		
	9	5	14	0.8	0.33

Section D.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Causes of Death 1947.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Typhoid and Para Typhoid fevers	—	—	— (N.C.)
2. Cerebro-spinal fever - - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
3. Scarlet fever - - - - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
4. Whooping cough - - - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
5. Diphtheria - - - - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2 (—)
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis - -	2	—	2 (—)
8. Syphilitic diseases - - - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
9. Influenza - - - - -	2	—	2 (—)
10. Measles - - - - - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis - - - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
12. Acute infective-encephalitis - -	—	—	— (N.C.)
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (male) - - -	—	—	— (—)
of uterus (female) - - -	—	3	3 (+)
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	3	8 (—)
15. Cancer of breast - - - -	—	3	3 (+)
16. Cancer of all other sites - - -	11	8	19 (+)
17. Diabetes - - - - - -	—	4	4 (+)
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions - -	10	13	23 (+)
19. Heart disease - - - - -	26	36	62 (+)
20. Other diseases of circulatory system - - - - -	3	3	6 (+)
21. Bronchitis - - - - -	5	1	6 (—)
22. Pneumonia - - - - -	4	2	6 (—)
23. Other respiratory diseases - -	1	3	4 (+)
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum -	1	2	3 (+)
25. Diarrhœa under 2 years - - -	2	1	3 (+)
26. Appendicitis - - - - -	1	—	1 (+)
27. Other digestive diseases - - -	—	2	2 (—)
28. Nephritis - - - - -	2	5	7 (+)
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—	— (N.C.)
30. Other maternal causes - - -	—	—	— (—)
31. Premature birth - - - -	2	1	3 (N.C.)
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases -	10	4	14 (+)
33. Suicide - - - - - -	1	2	3 (+)
34. Road Traffic accidents - - -	2	—	2 (—)
35. Other violent causes - - -	3	—	3 (+)
36. All other causes - - - -	5	8	13 (—)
	99	105	204

Note: (—) denotes decrease on 1946 figures.

(+) denotes increase on 1946 figures.

N.C. No change.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR—1947

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGES IN WEEKS.					Total
	— 1	— 2	— 3	— 4	5—52	
1. Congenital malformations -	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. **Disease of early infancy:**						
Congenital debility & icterus	8	—	—	—	1	9
Premature birth - - - -	2	—	—	1	—	3
Injury at birth - - - - -	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis - - - - - -	4	—	—	—	—	4
Others - - - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Diseases of respiratory system - - - - - - - -	1	—	—	1	2	4
4. Diseases of digestive system	—	—	—	—	1	1
5. Diseases of nervous system -	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tubercular diseases - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Infectious diseases - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Syphilis - - - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Overlaying - - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Other violence - - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. All other causes - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals - - - - - - -	16	—	—	2	4	22

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS—1947.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
—15	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	2	2	—	2	1	1	1	—
—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65 and over	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	2	Nil	3	1	1	2	Nil

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE—1947.
(other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE	AGES												Total	Remove to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65 & over			
Opthalmic Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	—	—	10	7	1	—	2	—	—	22	17	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	4	1	1	10	—	6
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Catarrhal Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	4	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	4	11	18	22	24	100	6	1	2	—	—	—	188	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	8	9	6	8	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	—	—
TOTALS	6	20	28	28	33	130	15	5	5	6	1	2	279	17	6

MONTHLY INCIDENT OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1947.
(other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever	4	1	5	6	2	2			1			1	22
Pneumonia		3	2			1					2	2	10
Measles	13	—	4	5	6	2	3	56	19	3	46	31	188
Whooping Cough	2	7	13	9	16	2	1					3	53
Catarrhal Jaundice	1	2			1								4
Cerebro Spinal Fever		1											1
Erysipelas									1				1
TOTALS	20	14	24	20	25	7	4	56	21	3	48	37	279

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections made - - - -	58
Number of rooms disinfected - -	34

NUISANCES.

Inspections made - - - -	131
Notices served - - - - -	28
Nuisances abated - - - -	28

NEW BUILDINGS.

Inspections made - - - -	68
Number of new dwellings completed during the year - - - -	15

SCHOOLS.

Inspections made - - - -	18

WATER SUPPLY.

Inspections made - - - -	210
New Connection (domestic) - -	56
New Connections (trade) - - -	14

KNACKERS YARDS.

Licences granted - - - -	1

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Inspections made - - - -	18
Number of written notices - - -	Nil
Prosecutions - - - - -	Nil

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number registered - - - -	41
Number of inspections - - -	88
Number on which improvements were requested and carried out - -	5

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total Number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Act 1936) - - - -	118
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose - - - - - - -	156
(2)	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - -	Nil
	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation - - - - - - -	18

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local authority or their officers	198

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under appropriate sections of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -	Nil
(2) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:	
(a) by owners - - - - -	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners - - - - -	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - - - - - - -	Nil
(2) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners - - - - -	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners - - - - -	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made -	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - -	Nil